



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DENISON MAN CONVICTED OF FEDERAL DRUG AND GUN CHARGES

(Tyler, Texas) A 28-year-old Denison man has been found guilty of federal drug and gun crimes in the Eastern District of Texas. **FRANK WINEINGER** was convicted late Wednesday by a jury in Sherman following a two-day trial before United States District Judge Michael Schneider.

Testimony presented at trial revealed that on March 5, 2003, Wineinger was arrested after a brief car chase and foot chase. At the time of the arrest, he was in possession of a loaded revolver and over 2 grams of methamphetamine. A search of Wineinger's home revealed three additional guns, drug paraphernalia and small amounts of methamphetamine and marijuana.

On September 15, 2003, while out on bail, Wineinger allegedly burglarized a home in Grayson County in which several handguns and rifles were stolen. The Grayson County Sheriff's Office received information several days later regarding Wineinger's whereabouts. Wineinger was located hiding in a closet of a residence. After he was arrested, a loaded pistol was found in his waistband and another loaded gun was discovered in the closet. Additional stolen guns and drugs were found in the residence.

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Before the start of testimony in the trial, Wineinger advised the court he wanted to enter a guilty plea to the charges of Possession of Stolen Firearms and User of a Controlled Substance in Possession of a Firearm. The trial then continued and Wineinger was convicted of the remaining charges of Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime, Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine and an additional count of User of a Controlled Substance in Possession of a Firearm.

Matthew D. Orwig, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, declared the verdict a tremendous victory in the fight against crime, "Drugs and guns are a deadly combination and almost always come hand-in-hand. We remain even more committed to keeping armed drug dealers off the streets and will continue to prosecute these cases to the fullest extent of the law."

Upon sentencing, Wineinger faces up to twenty years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$1 million. A sentencing date has not been set.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Grayson County Sheriff's Office, and the Sherman Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Joe Monsivais and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Sam Cantrell prosecuted the case.

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